

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 111730Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2176

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARAMARIBO 0465

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, NL, NS

SUBJ: POLITICAL LINES HARDEN

REF : PARAMARIBO 0447

1. LINES BETWEEN NPK COALITION, VHP OPPOSITION AND NPK DEFECTORS HAVE HARDENED IN LAST FEW DAYS, AND NO END TO PARLIAMENTARY IMPASSE IS YET IN SIGHT.

2. SINCE WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 6 ORCHESTRATED MEETINGS OF NPS EXECUTIVE AND BRANCHES HAVE CONFIRMED THAT PARTY'S AND NPK'S DETERMINATION TO RETAIN CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT ON OWN TERMS. NPS CHAIRMAN (AND MINISTER-PRESIDENT) ARRON MADE CLEAR THAT HE NEITHER PLANS TO STEP DOWN NOR ASK VHP TO JOIN IN NATIONAL UNION GOVERNMENT; THAT HE BELIEVES ELECTIONS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AT THIS TIME; AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PROCEED WITH INDEPENDENCE ON NOVEMBER 25. (IN ANOTHER FORUM, LEADER OF THE PNR, ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER BRUMA, HAS ALSO SPOKEN OUT AGAINST NATIONAL UNION GOVERNMENT.) NPS BRANCHES HAVE ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS EXPRESSING INDIGNATION AT ALLEGED TREACHERY OF LIESDEK-CLARKE, LIE KONG FONG AND SOMOHARDJO

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AND CALLING UPON DEFECTORS TO RESIGN FROM THE STATEN AND THUS

RETURN SEATS TO NPK. RESOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY EFFORTS TO DISCREDIT DEFECTORS, E.G. GIVING PUBLIC HEARING TO TAPE RECORDINGS OF STATEMENTS THEY MADE NOT SO LONG AGO IN DEFENSE OF NPK POLICIES.

3. DEFECTORS REMAIN UNMOVED OR IN HIDING. LIESDEK HAS PREPARED HERSELF FOR LONG POLITICAL SIEGE AND POSSIBLE REPRISALS BY SENDING TWO CHILDREN TO STAY WITH THEIR GRANDMOTHER IN U.S. ACCORDING TO HER HUSBAND, SHE IS UNDAUNTED BY CONTROVERSY AND IS ALSO DETERMINED TO SEE THIS THROUGH TO END. LIESDEK HAS LATELY ATTEMPTED TO ORGANIZE PUBLIC DISPLAYS OF SUPPORT AMONG NPS FAITHFUL, AMONG WHOM SHE CONTINUES TO COUNT HERSELF, BUT HUSBAND ADMITS THESE ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN STYMIED BY PARTY LEADERSHIP. LIESDEK IS CLAIMING AND OTHER PARTY MEMBERS CONFIRM THAT SHE HAS CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT WITHIN NPS. SOMOHARDJO, UNTIL NOW A POLITICAL MAVERICK AND PROBABLY STILL UNPREDICTABLE, HAS FORMALLY CAST HIS LOT WITH THE LIESDEK/LIE KONG FONG STATEN FRACTION. LIE KONG FONG HAS NOT BEEN HEARD FROM IN WEEKS.

4. VHP LEADER LACHMON IS CONTINUING HIS DELAYING TACTICS. THANKS TO DEFECTORS, HE IS ABLE TO WITHHOLD QUORUM IN STATEN AND THUS PREVENT ACTION ON STEPS, E.G. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTION, WHICH GOVERNMENT PROMISED WILL PRECEDE INDEPENDENCE; THERE HAS BEEN NO PARLIAMENTARY SITTING SINCE PRO FORMA OPENING OF STATEN SESSION SEPTEMBER 1. LACHMON MAINTAINS THAT NOVEMBER 25 INDEPENDENCE DATE IS NOT "SACRED" AND THAT IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HAVE "GOOD" CONSTITUTION THAN TO MEET ARBITRARY DEADLINES. SHORT TIME REMAINING BEFORE NOVEMBER 25 IN WHICH TO CONSIDER DRAFT CONSTITUTION AND OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS IS INSUFFICIENT TO ENSURE GOOD RESULT, AND EVERY DAY THAT PASSES MAKES TASK MORE DIFFICULT. GON HAS DUTY TO INTERVENE, HE SAYS, IN ORDER TO AVOID POSSIBLE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL CHAOS. LACHMON TOLD ME THIS WEEK THAT HE IS NOT INTERESTED IN ANY DEALS WITH NPK, INCLUDING A CABINET SEAT OR OTHER POLITICAL REWARD FOR HIMSELF. HE SOUNDED AND IS ACTING LIKE MAN WHO BELIEVES TIME IS ON HIS SIDE.

5. ALTHOUGH NPK REMAINS PUBLICLY CONFIDENT OF THE ABILITY TO RETAIN CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT, SOME OFFICIALS PRIVATELY PERMIT THEMSELVES TO THINK ABOUT THE UNTHINKABLE. EDUCATION MINISTER
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VENETIAAN, AMONG OTHERS, HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT NPK'S OPTIONS ARE VERY LIMITED AND THAT NEW ELECTIONS AND DATE OF INDEPENDENCE CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.

6. COMMENT DESPITE POLITICAL MANEUVERING, PARAMARIBO REMAINS CALM.
JACOBS

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